

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS  
No. 11-614V  
Filed: November 27, 2012**

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ROBERT SMITH and AMY SMITH,  
as the parents and natural guardians of,  
Leyo Smith, an infant,

Petitioners,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH  
AND HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

\*\*\*\*\*

**DECISION ON ATTORNEY FEES AND COSTS<sup>1</sup>**

**Vowell**, Special Master:

In this case under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program,<sup>2</sup> I issued a decision on October 24, 2012, awarding compensation pursuant to the parties' joint stipulation. On November 2, 2012, the parties filed a stipulation for attorney fees and costs. Petitioners separately submitted statements pursuant to General Order #9, indicating they incurred no personal litigation costs, on November 26, 2012. The stipulation indicates that after informal discussions of petitioners' initial request, petitioner requests an amended amount to which respondent does not object.

I find that this petition was brought in good faith and that there existed a reasonable basis for the claim. Therefore, an award for fees and costs is appropriate, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-15(b) and (e)(1). Further, the proposed amount seems

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<sup>1</sup> Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I intend to post this decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-347, § 205, 116 Stat. 2899, 2913 (codified as amended at 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2006)). In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), petitioners have 14 days to identify and move to delete medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will delete such material from public access.

<sup>2</sup> The applicable statutory provisions defining the program are found at 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-10 *et seq.* (2006).

reasonable and appropriate. **Accordingly, I hereby award the total \$19,353.66<sup>3</sup> in the form of a check payable jointly to petitioners and petitioners' counsel of record, Mark Sadaka, for petitioners' attorney fees and costs.**

In the absence of a timely-filed motion for review filed pursuant to Appendix B of the Rules of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, the clerk of the court shall enter judgment in accordance herewith.<sup>4</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**s/ Denise K. Vowell**  
**Denise K. Vowell**  
Special Master

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<sup>3</sup> This amount is intended to cover all legal expenses incurred in this matter. This award encompasses all charges by the attorney against a client, "advanced costs" as well as fees for legal services rendered. Furthermore, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(e)(3) prevents an attorney from charging or collecting fees (including costs) that would be in addition to the amount awarded herein. See *generally Beck v. Sec'y, HHS*, 924 F.2d 1029 (Fed. Cir.1991).

<sup>4</sup> Entry of judgment can be expedited by each party's filing of a notice renouncing the right to seek review. See Vaccine Rule 11(a).